

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 30 and 37, and cancel claim 36. A complete listing of the claims, showing their current status, is provided below.

1-16. (cancelled)

17. (Original) A kit for use in end-labeling ribonucleic acids with non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotides, said kit comprising:

a non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotide; and
a prokaryotic poly(A) polymerase.

18. (Original) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotide is a non-radioactively labeled ATP analog, CTP analog, UTP analog or GTP analog.

19. (Previously Amended) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotide is labeled with a directly detectable label.

20. (Original) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said prokaryotic poly(A) polymerase is a bacterial polymerase.

21-23. (cancelled)

24. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotide contains a modified nitrogenous base moiety covalently bonded to a non-radioactive label.

25. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 19, wherein said directly detectable label is a fluorophore.

26. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 25, wherein said fluorophore is a

xanthenic fluorophore or polymethine fluorophore.

27. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 26, wherein said polymethine fluorophore is a cyanine fluorophore.

28. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 25, wherein said fluorophore is chosen from Pyrene, Coumarin, Diethylaminocoumarin, FAM, Fluorescein Chlorotriazinyl, Fluorescein, R110, Eosin, JOE, R6G, Tetramethylrhodamine, TAMRA, Lissamine, ROX, Naphthofluorescein, Texas Red, FITC, HEX, Cy3, Cy5 and Cy7.

29. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 20, wherein said bacterial polymerase is chosen from Escherichia coli poly(A) polymerase 1, Escherichia coli poly(A) polymerase 2, Bacillus subtilis poly(A) polymerase 1, and Bacillus subtilis poly(A) polymerase 2.

30. **(Currently amended)** A kit for use in end-labeling ribonucleic acids with non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotides, said kit comprising:
a fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide; and
a prokaryotic **bacterial** poly(A) polymerase.

31. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 30, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide is a fluorescently labeled ATP analog, CTP analog, UTP analog or GTP analog.

32. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 30, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide contains a modified nitrogenous base moiety covalently bonded to a fluorescent label.

33. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 30, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide is labeled with a xanthenic fluorophore or polymethine fluorophore.

34. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 33, wherein said polymethine

fluorophore is a cyanine fluorophore.

35. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 30, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide is labeled with a fluorophore chosen from Pyrene, Coumarin, Diethylaminocoumarin, FAM, Fluorescein Chlorotriazinyl, Fluorescein, R110, Eosin, JOE, R6G, Tetramethylrhodamine, TAMRA, Lissamine, ROX, Naphthofluorescein, Texas Red, FITC, HEX, Cy3, Cy5 and Cy7.

36. **(Cancelled)**

37. **(Currently amended)** The kit according to Claim ~~36~~ **30**, wherein said bacterial polymerase is chosen from Escherichia coli poly(A) polymerase 1, Escherichia coli poly(A) polymerase 2, Bacillus subtilis poly(A) polymerase 1, and Bacillus subtilis poly(A) polymerase 2.

38. (Previously added) A kit for use in end-labeling ribonucleic acids with non-radioactively labeled ribonucleotides, said kit comprising:
a fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide labeled with a xanthenic fluorophore or cyanine fluorophore; and
a prokaryotic poly (A) polymerase.

39. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 38, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide is an ATP analog, CTP analog, UTP analog or GTP analog labeled with a Xanthenic fluorophore or Cyanine fluorophore.

40. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 38, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide contains a modified nitrogenous base moiety covalently bonded to said fluorophore.

41. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 38, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide is labeled with a Xanthenic fluorophore chosen from FAM, Fluorescein Chlorotriazinyl, Fluorescein, JOE, R110, R6G, Tetramethylrhodamine, TAMRA,

Lissamine, ROX, FITC, and HEX.

42. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 38, wherein said fluorescently labeled ribonucleotide is labeled with a cyanine fluorophore chosen from Cy3, Cy5 and Cy7.

43. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 38, wherein said prokaryotic poly(A) polymerase is a bacterial polymerase.

44. (Previously added) The kit according to Claim 43, wherein said bacterial polymerase is chosen from Escherichia coli poly(A) polymerase 1, Escherichia coli poly(A) polymerase 2, Bacillus subtilis poly(A) polymerase 1, and Bacillus subtilis poly(A) polymerase 2.